



DOWN SYNDROME OF LOUISVILLE

SERVING LOCALLY,
SHARING GLOBALLY

2022

IMPACT REPORT

dsoflou.org

Meet our cover
model, River





DOWN SYNDROME OF LOUISVILLE

SERVING LOCALLY, SHARING GLOBALLY

Dear Members, Families, and Friends of DSL,

Happy Holidays! As the year draws to a close, we reflect on all the wonderful things that have happened at Down Syndrome of Louisville in 2022. It was an amazing year! We danced in April. We golfed in June. We walked in October. Also new this year, we went *Over The Edge* to raise funds for our vital programs.

As soon as we are made aware of a new diagnosis, we offer support and confidence to new parents. We welcomed 28 new babies into our community this year and actively supported these newborns and many toddlers with our “First Steps” program. Early intervention in child development is one of the best investments we can make in a young person’s life.

We are continuing to celebrate a return to pre-pandemic levels of member participation. Enrollment in *The Academy*, the new name for our adult lifelong learning program that meets on campus Monday through Friday, has reached more than 107 attendees each week! If you have time and would like to brighten your day, come by and volunteer at *The Academy*. You will get way more than you give. I promise.

Today Down Syndrome of Louisville serves and advocates for 1,299 people with Down syndrome and their families in the Kentuckiana area. This year, we took our show on the road and went out in the community hosting five “pop-up” DSL programming events in neighborhoods where it would be most convenient for families to connect with DSL staff and discover what we do. Without caring and charitable people like you, we could not provide these valuable experiences which make a difference to so many individuals.

Please take a few minutes to read the personal stories included here. Consider donating so that our staff and volunteers can continue delivering lifelong education and advocacy programs that make a tremendous difference in so many lives.

Thank you again for all you do for Down Syndrome of Louisville.

Warm Regards,

Ed Kenney
Board President

Julie Torzewski
Executive Director

Our Mission

To support, educate, and advocate for individuals with Down syndrome; thus enabling them to reach their full potential.

Our Vision

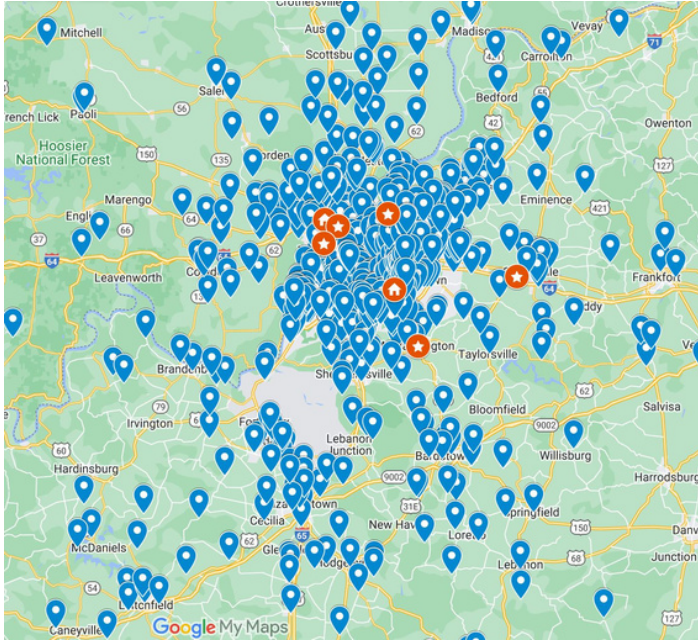
We envision a world where every individual with Down syndrome reaches their full potential.

Our Values

- We Care
- We Stay Open
- We Have Fun
- We Don't Settle

COVID CONNECTIONS

SERVING LOCALLY, SHARING GLOBALLY
DURING COVID & BEYOND



Blue Pins: Member Locations Red Houses: DSL Campuses Red Stars: Pop-Up Locations

OUR REACH

Down Syndrome of Louisville serves individuals in 26 area counties in Kentucky and Indiana. However, during COVID, our reach went well beyond our local service area. Many families described our services as a "lifeline" for their members. We had individuals join us from at least seven other states. One even moved here to join our family in person.

"When COVID hit, like many other families, I started searching for ways to keep my daughter, Rose, engaged with the world. After doing research and looking at websites I decided to enroll Rose in the Boogie Down Crew online dance class. This program was a lifeline for Rose. When I asked how the first class went she enthusiastically stated. "It was great!" I asked her if there were a lot of people online. She replied. "Yes, and guess what mom, they ALL have Down Syndrome!" Her connection to these new friends made the choice easy. We moved to Louisville! DSL and all its programming have enriched Rose's life in so many ways. We are very thankful to have access to such a great organization!"

KATHY, MOM TO ROSE

5,640+

Hours of virtual programming
offered in 2020-2021

11,000+

Logins to our Virtual Programming

20+

Hours a Week of virtual
programming still offered
POST COVID



EARLY INTERVENTION

REACHING OUR MILESTONES

EARLY INTERVENTION

Our developmental intervention targets the unique development needs of children beginning from birth through age three and is available at home or at a childcare facility. Our certified Developmental Therapists provide parents with strategies and techniques to further the child's brain development, learning styles, and issues related to a diagnosis of Down Syndrome. In our group classes, parents learn strategies to implement in the community and at home to address their specific developmental goals for their child. Caregivers also provide shared experiences and resources as they network and support one another. Siblings are welcome too!

1,364

Early Interventions Sessions
held each year

28

New babies
welcomed



Melany & Hayden pictured at class with DSL's, Dr. Jenny Kimes. Meet Melany:



"When we found out our son had Down syndrome, it was an emotional rollercoaster. We had no idea what Down syndrome would mean for our son and family. Thankfully, from the moment we reached out to Down Syndrome of Louisville, we felt some relief. We now had a group of people who would be with us every step of the way, from setting up therapies to talking us through tough decisions to celebrating big and small victories. The services and support from Down Syndrome of Louisville allow us to ensure our son has everything he needs to have a happy, healthy, and fulfilling life. I cannot imagine going through this journey without Down Syndrome of Louisville by our side."

CAROLYN, MOM TO BRADY



SCHOOL AGE SUPPORT

MORE THAN AN IEP

SUMMER EDUCATION ENRICHMENT (SEE) CAMP

The summer slide is all too common; SEE Camp is here to help. SEE is led by certified teachers and assistants and is designed to boost summer learning to advance students toward their annual IEP goals.



163+

Students served in
our School Age
Programs

92%

Percent of students
maintained or gained
new skills during
camp

Check out our School Age
Support Services
for students and educators
here:



ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

- IEP Support & Consultations
- Teacher Resources
- Bike Camp
- Achieving Dreams Teen Camp
- Teen Club and more!

"DSL has been part of our lives since Sam's prenatal diagnosis. Sam received developmental support as an infant and toddler and attended early education classes. We have received clinical and behavioral services, attended informative webinars on diet and behavior, and received support from DSL staff about other therapies. Sam has attended DSL's Summer Education Enrichment (SEE) program for the past two summers, and he absolutely loves it! They follow his IEP, work on therapies and educational needs, and have so much fun. DSL's School Age Manager has been amazingly supportive not only in the summer but throughout the school year with his IEP. She was able to attend his last IEP meeting, and we even met beforehand to talk about his goals for the school year.

We are so very thankful for the support we receive from DSL and so fortunate to have this amazing organization in our community."

CARIN, MOM TO SAM



ADULT EDUCATION

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

LIVING & LEARNING

This program promotes life skills training with the ultimate goal of making each participant more independent inside and outside the home.

BOOK CLUB

Book Club encourages members as they continue to develop comprehension and communication skills. It also serves as an opportunity for developing social relationships with others who love good stories.

TUTORING

1:1 academic tutoring provides ongoing learning opportunities to our members after high-school graduation. A trained volunteer tutor is matched with the student, and they meet together weekly for an educational session.



Meet College
Connections
Graduate, Ankur:



COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

Down Syndrome of Louisville now helps facilitate a college connection for our members with these local universities:

- JCTC
- Ivy Tech
- Bellarmine University
- University of Kentucky

38

College
Connections
Graduates

46

Volunteer
Tutoring pairs
meeting weekly

336

Adults Participating
in Educational
Programming

"DSL means the world to our family. It's the twins' second home. They look forward to their days at the Academy (especially field trip days!). I can't thank DSL's Career Solutions Specialists enough for their commitment to job coaching. Thank you, DSL!"

JACKIE,
MOM TO BAILEE & LYNSEY



THE ACADEMY @ DSL

KEEPING OUR MINDS & BODIES MOVING

THE GOAL

The Academy is a high-quality lifelong learning experience unlike any other program in the area. The Academy offers a complete educational curriculum, including academics, healthy movement, life-skill classes, social activities, and community outings for adults with Down syndrome that have completed high school.



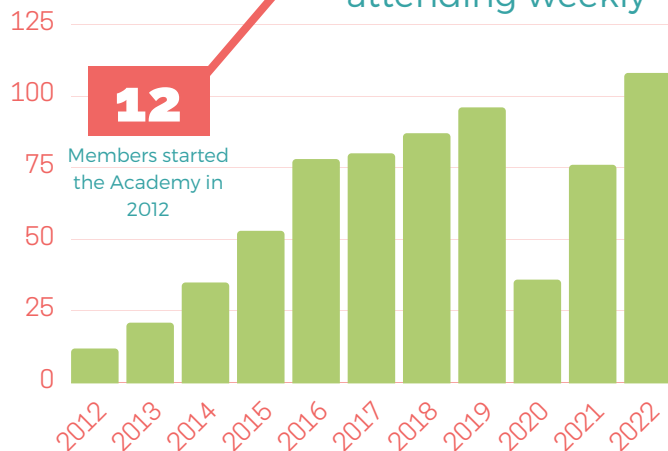
Scan to meet Academy Member, Emily



THE GROWTH

107

Academy Members attending weekly

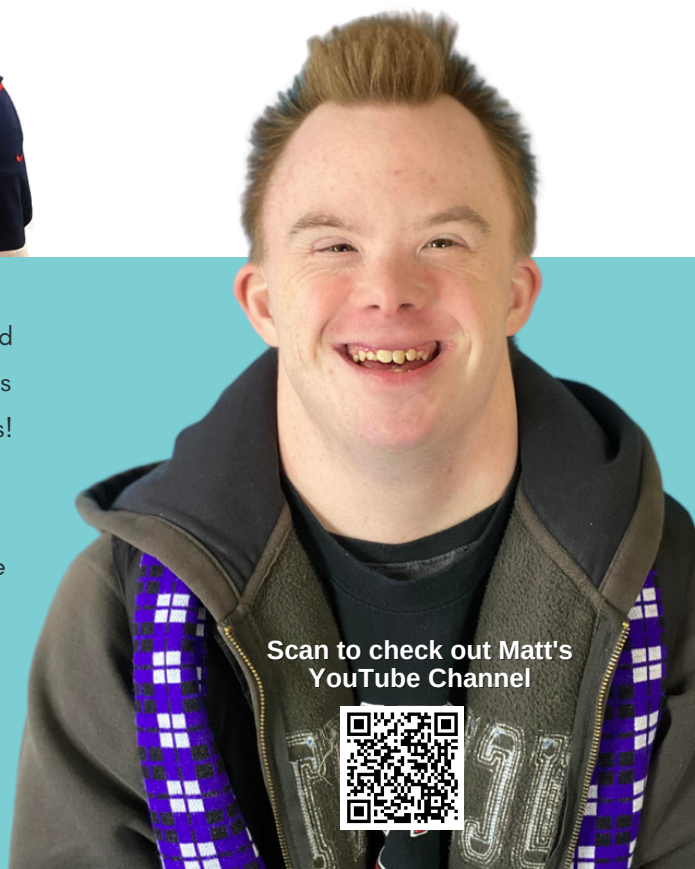


"DSL has helped Matthew immensely. After being homeschooled, he started with a behavior therapist for his anxiety - he often froze in public and I was not sure if DSL would work for him. But he has just grown leaps and bounds!

The teachers and family-like atmosphere have made him feel safe. They settled his anxiety and he even began mimicking his new friends' good behaviors. He has gained a social confidence that he did not have before and he even looks forward to going on field trips- something I was very unsure about at first. His reading, writing, and independence have all improved. He also began speech therapy with APT during his time at the Academy and this became another channel to the world.

He has just blossomed!"

DENISE, MOM TO MATTHEW



Scan to check out Matt's YouTube Channel



CAREER DEVELOPMENT

CONTRIBUTING TO OUR COMMUNITY

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

We pride ourselves on getting to know our members exceptionally well, allowing us to match their skills, talents, and personalities to employers whom we trust. We support over 50 employees in the Louisville area, helping them make positive contributions to their places of employment, and promoting their skills and abilities to the public.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES

Pre-ETS prepares high school students for the world beyond high school, most notably the workplace and post-secondary education. It aims at providing practical training for our high school students to learn to become competent students and workers. This program is a part of our *DSL & Friends* programming meaning anyone with an IDD may register.



50+

Members working in our community

43+

Employment Partners



Scan to see all of our Employment Partners



DSL Friends visit Brian at work.

"Will works hard, is a fast learner, and does everything with infectious positivity. I'd love to have more employees like him. The customers enjoy interacting with him and look forward to seeing him in the store."

ALFONSO BRENES, STORE OWNER

"You made my dream come true."

WILL HARROD, DSL MEMBER



FAMILY SUPPORT

PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION



WELCOME LITTLE ONE

With the generous support of Skylar's Smile Baskets, Down Syndrome of Louisville provides each new family with a comforting welcome basket when baby arrives.

Meet Skylar here:



MOM'S NIGHT OUT

Through a partnership with *Barren Heights*, *Critically Loved*, and *FEAT - Families for Effective Autism Treatment of Louisville*, moms are offered dinner, massage, craft time, and more!



CRITICAL SUPPORT

Critically Loved helps DSL support our families when they are in the hospital by providing survival kits and other supportive services. We were excited to partner on a fundraising event with *Critically Loved* and challenge supporters to go *Over The Edge!* Participants braved 18 stories to raise funds and awareness.

"It's like a family here. DSL has given us the opportunity to have information and help in our backyard. To know that there is a place here that says, 'We can help', means everything."

URSULA,
MOM TO PHIL



Meet Phil's Family



POP-UP PROGRAMMING

ADDRESSING ACCESS AND CREATING OPPORTUNITY

POP-UP PROGRAMMING

With the generous support from our donors, Down Syndrome of Louisville began providing Pop-Up Programming in areas around Louisville in February of 2022. This initiative was part of our strategic plan to be more accessible to those who cannot get to our main campus for programming, and it has been a positive experience for all involved.

Our Pop-Ups provide a safe and nurturing environment with people who can handle any challenges which may arise. It engages volunteers from new areas and allows our trained staff to meet children and families we have been unable to reach before. We have gotten the chance to put names with faces and begin building new relationships.



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PARTNERS WHO HAVE MADE THIS POSSIBLE:

- Associates in Pediatric Therapy, Clarksville
- Associates in Pediatric Therapy, Shelbyville
- Power & Grace Gymnastics
- The Portland Library
- Church of the Crossroads, Bullitt County



5

New Pop-Up
Locations

"We had not been able to get away on a date for years! Enjoying time together while knowing that our child is safe and understood is so comforting."

ERIN MCDOWELL,
MOM TO GRAYSON



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

REACHING OUR FULL POTENTIAL

DSL BOOGIE DOWN CREW

Healthy movement set to music and an opportunity to entertain is the goal of this program. Performances are scheduled throughout the year across our community. Follow us on social media to see more from the Boogie Down Crew.



KINDNESS WARRIOR TRAINING

A Kindness Warrior is an advocate whose superpower is lifting others to reach their full potential. DSL offers training for individuals and groups so you too can be a Kindness Warrior.

Scan here to get started:



VOLUNTEER

We could not do what we do without the support of hundreds of volunteers. Interested in helping out? Scan the code and get started:



DID YOU KNOW WE ARE GETTING A DS AWARENESS LICENSE PLATE?

Scan here and sign up to be notified when it is available:



Indiana already has one so check with your DMV!

OUR DONORS

A FEW OF OUR DONORS WHO MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE



CORPORATE PARTNERS

"Down Syndrome of Louisville has provided our family with support, encouragement, and resources during trying times. We are honored that our company can pledge support for years to come so that they can continue to offer these important resources for more families in our community."

ASHLEY & BEN, PARENTS TO
EVELYANN



PARTNER SUPPORT

Special thanks to two of our largest partners. Without your commitment to children with Down syndrome in our community, we could not continue providing these vital services to families in need.



Pleasure Valley
Lions Club



1.2 M+

Raised in 2022 to support
our vital programs



Scan to see
more Impact
Partners:



INDIVIDUAL DONORS

"As much as I can say I give back, what I have gained is tenfold. I have learned so much about myself, about being present, and about what true love and connection really are."

LAURA LEATON,
DONOR, VOLUNTEER, & FRIEND
TO MANY. PICTURED HERE
WITH MIKE BUSH



Scan to check out
Mike's YouTube
Channel

HOW DONOR \$ ARE USED

YOUR GIFT MAKES US WHOLE

24% Early Childhood

Includes First Steps, group infant, toddler, and preschool classes, communication classes, and more.

17% School-Age

Includes summer camps, school support, IEP resources, school educational sessions, Teen Club, etc.

21% Adult

Includes Career Solutions, Living & Learning, Book Club, Tutoring, and more.

20% Engagement

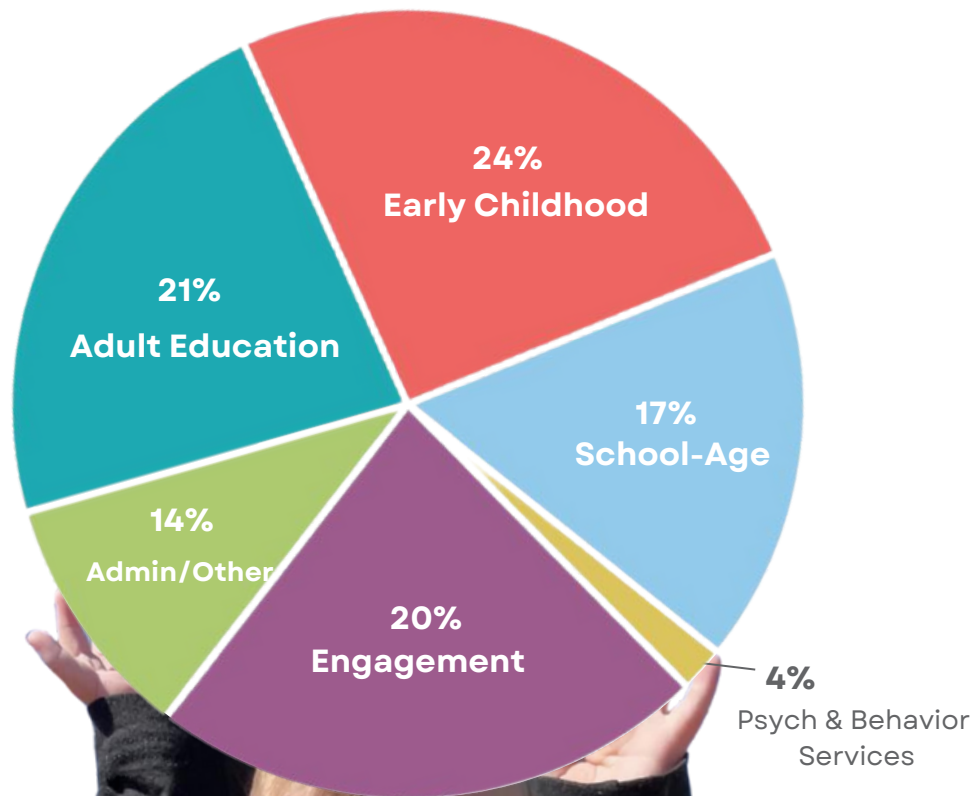
Includes member social events, family fun events, educational series, Family Mentoring Program, educational outreach and more.

4% Psych & Behavior

Includes area psychological consults and behavior support.

14% Admin/Other

Includes administrative expenses, fundraising expenses, etc.



1.3 M+

Total Fundraising Needed
to continue services in 2023

CONTINUED COMMITMENT

THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD & VOLUNTEERS

DSL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President

Edward Kenney
Vice President
Relatient

Laura Leaton
Facilitator & Coach
Anchored Elements

Vice President

Danny Slaton
Lobbyist
Top Shelf Lobby, LLC

Dwight Newton
CHRO
Zoeller Pump Company

Wes Orr
Account Management
JIL Communications

Treasurer

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Attorney
Goodin Law Services

Sarah Rosenbaum
Operations Lead
Humana

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Wade Yeoman
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Finn & Yeoman

Dr. Harish Chandan
Professor
Argosy University

Shelby Young
Therapist
Kids Center

Eric Harden
Partner
Insuramax

Self-Advocate

Corey Morgan

Nick Holmes
Project Manager
ID&A

Executive Director

Julie Torzewski

DOWN SYNDROME EDUCATION FOUNDATION BOARD

President: Paul Esselman

Vice President: Richard Bush

Treasurer: Jim McDonnell

Secretary: Thom Nicholas

Joe Dever
Terry Fenwick
Kurt Graeser
Mark Leach
Dr. Wes Sublett



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

2023-2025
5 Focus Areas

Access & Diversity

- Establish diversity in all parts of DSL
- Reach underserved communities
- Nurture partnerships for increased opportunities
- Increase diversity: members, board & staff

Generational Planning

- Access the needs of our members over the next Ten years
- Navigate the need for a preschool at DSL
- Expand resources within The Academy to serve as many members as possible for as long as possible
- Educate families on the importance of planning for the future.

Community & Family Education

- Educate & empower our community by implementing Kindness Warrior Trainings
- Be a resource for the Ds community locally and globally
- Empower our families to seek and utilize resources on DSofLou.org
- Increase Volunteers & Community Partners

Staff Support

- Continue to focus on culture & values
- Improve retention
- Provide growth opportunities
- Facilitate respite & appreciation

Transparency

- Improve accountability to donors
- Foster financial clarity
- Communicate need for additional financial resources

Can we count on you?

PLANNING NOW FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

"We were introduced to Down Syndrome of Louisville through a friend the same weekend we received our screening results. This could have been a very fearful time. However, the resources, opportunities, and community involvement offered at DSL gave us so much hope and excitement for our boy's future. Now that he's here, we can't wait to get involved!"

LYNDSEY,
MOM TO EZRA



2023 COSTS TO PROVIDE SERVICES:

- Six weeks Summer Education Enrichment Camp for one child: **\$2,500**
- Career Support for a member for a year: **\$4,268**
- One day to operate DSL: **\$7,021**
- Bi-weekly early intervention for one child from age 0-3: **\$7,100**
- The Academy for one adult, one year (avg. 3x wk): **\$18,000**
- Parent Education for an average of 25 new families each year: **\$24,000**

1.3 M+

Total donations needed to
continue services

1.2 M+

Waiver reimbursement and
other payment sources

2.5 M+

Total Costs Expected in 2023

COUNT ME IN!

☐ \$100

☐ \$500

☐ \$1,000

☐ Other _____

☐ I want to support DSL all year long by being part of Club 21 & pledging \$21/monthly. (cc required)

To give now online and/or make your gift recurring by joining Club 21, please visit donatetodsl.com or scan QR code.

Please make checks payable to *Down Syndrome of Louisville*.
Return envelope provided.



Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

CC#: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVV Code: _____



**DOWN SYNDROME
OF LOUISVILLE**

SERVING LOCALLY, SHARING GLOBALLY

5001 S. Hurstbourne Pkwy.
Louisville, KY 40291

Thank YOU!

